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Title: Problems being faced by Vanilla growers in the Country.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Ice creams are sweet and palatable. But they will be sweeter and better for health if artificial ingredients are not used in them. Now, vanilla essence is being used in making ice creams. Our farmers are making natural vanilla and their plight has gone from bad to worse. The price of vanilla was Rs. 3,000 per kg. earlier and now it has come down to Rs. 50 per kg. or even less. So, the farmers are in real distress. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to do two things. The first is this. In some foreign countries, when synthetic vanilla is used, they use a label. Similarly, here also, wherever synthetic vanilla is used in ice creams or other items, it should be clearly written as 'imitation vanilla' on the packets of these items. In fact, the Commerce Ministry has taken it up very seriously and they have also recommended it to the Health Ministry.[R19]

[r20]The other aspect is with regard to these poor farmers who were actually encouraged to cultivate vanilla, especially, in Kerala and some of the Southern States. They are now in real problem. So, I would urge upon the Government that some kind of incentive should be given by way of subsidy or by way of market intervention. In fact, there is a cooperative formed by the farmers and they have come forward after the Commerce Ministry...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now the ice cream is becoming sour.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I would like to say that the farmers should be given some kind of incentive by way of support price for vanilla.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, Shri Francis George associates with this.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry. Please follow some rules.

12.30 hrs.